INTERIM COMMISSION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANIZATION

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Held at the International Conference Centre, Geneva,
on 8 December 1994 at 2.45 p.m.

Chairman: H.E. Mr. M. Zahran (Egypt)

Representatives present:

Australia	Mr. Buckley
Benelux	Ms. Plate (Netherlands)
Canada	Mr. Gosselin
China	Mr. Tang Yufeng
	Mr. Wang Yi
Colombia	Mr. Londoño
	Mr. Jaramillo
Egypt	Mr. Zahran
France	Mr. Metzger
Greece	Ms. Lykou
Italy	Mr. Meloni
Mexico	Mr. de la Peña
Norway	Mr. Johannessen
Philippines	Mr. Borillo
United Kingdom	Mrs. Stoddart
United States	Mr. Stoler

Subject discussed: Status of the Interim Commission after the entry into force of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization

The Executive-Secretary, in opening the meeting, noted that this meeting would be the final one of the Executive Committee of the Interim Commission.

Mr. Zahran (Egypt) was elected Chairman of the meeting.

The Chairman recalled that invitations to the meeting had been sent to the seventeen members of the Executive Committee on 5 December 1994.

He further recalled that ICITO was created in 1948 by a Resolution adopted at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment in Havana, to carry out specific functions pending the establishment of the International Trade Organization. At the first meeting, on 20 March 1948, the

Commission had elected its Executive Secretary. The Commission had also elected its Executive Committee of eighteen members and delegated all its powers to it.

The Executive Committee of ICITO had met in September 1948 (during the second session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the GATT) and approved financial arrangements which conferred authority on the Executive Secretary of ICITO to provide secretariat services to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. This arrangement between ICITO and the CONTRACTING PARTIES continued to this day.

Since 1950, the Executive Committee of ICITO had only met three times, for the purpose of appointing as Executive Secretary the Directors-General designate of GATT.

The purpose of this meeting was to consider the status of the Interim Commission after the entry into force of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization.

The Preparatory Committee had adopted the text of an Agreement on the Transfer of Assets, Liabilities, Records, Staff and Functions from the Interim Commission of the International Trade Organization and the GATT to the World Trade Organization. The text of this Agreement had also been adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to GATT 1947, and should further be adopted by the Interim Commission. After having been adopted by the three bodies, the Agreement would be signed by the Executive Secretary of ICITO and the Chairmen of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and the Preparatory Committee.

The Agreement stipulated that all assets and liabilities of the GATT 1947 and the ICITO should be assets and liabilities of the WTO. It further stipulated that the staff of the ICITO should perform the duties of the secretariat of the WTO until the appointment of WTO's own staff. The staff of the ICITO should continue to perform the duties of the GATT 1947 Secretariat, including those of the bodies established under the Tokyo Round Agreements, until the appointment of the staff of the Secretariat of the WTO.

The Agreement further stipulated that the ICITO should be dissolved as of the date on which the members of the Secretariat of the WTO were appointed.

The Chairman proposed that the Executive Committee should authorize its Executive Secretary to accept the Agreement on behalf of ICITO.

The Executive Committee so agreed.

The meeting closed at 3.15 p.m.